

**REMARKS**

In accordance with the foregoing, claims 1, 3, and 13 have been amended. Claims 1, 3-7, 13, and 15 are currently pending and under consideration.

It is respectfully submitted that the remarks submitted with the Amendment filed July 13, 2006, are equally applicable to the pending claims as amended above, and are incorporated herein.

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

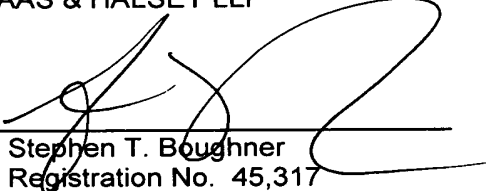
If there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

In addition, if there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Preliminary Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

STAAS & HALSEY LLP

Date: 11/2/06

By:   
Stephen T. Boughner  
Registration No. 45,317

1201 New York Ave, N.W., 7th Floor  
Washington, D.C. 20005  
Telephone: (202) 434-1500  
Facsimile: (202) 434-1501